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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fifth session
Sessional Committee

Draft report of the Sessional Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. E. TREU (Austria)

Chapter I

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

At its 124th plenary meeting on 17 August 1967, the Trade and Development Board established a Sessional Committee of the Whole to which it referred the following agenda items:

Item 5: Report of the Committee on Commodities

Item 6: Report of the Committee on Manufactures

Item 7: Report of the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade

Item 8: Report of the Committee on Shipping

The following terms of reference were given to the Committee: "to examine the reports of the four Committees in the light of the objectives of the second session of the Conference, taking into account, inter alia, General Assembly resolution 2206 (XXI), and to report thereon to the Board."

The Sessional Committee held ... meetings from 17 August to ..... The summary records of these meetings are contained in documents TD/B/SC.7/SR.1 - .....

At its first meeting the Committee unanimously elected Mr. M.K. Yasseen (Iraq) as Chairman. At its second meeting the Committee unanimously elected Mr. E. Treu (Austria) as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

The Committee examined the reports in question in conformity with its terms of reference and submits the following report.

Chapter II

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING

(item 8 of the agenda)

1. The documents relating to this item were the report of the Committee on Shipping on its second session (TD/B/116) and a note by the UNCTAD secretariat on action taken by the Economic and Social Council relevant to UNCTAD activities in shipping (TD/B/141).

2. All the representatives who participated in the debate considered that the report of the Committee on Shipping on its second session was evidence of progress in the execution of its programme of work, which covered the following major areas of activity:

(i) Establishment of national and regional consultation machinery;

(ii) Level and structure of freight rates, conference practices and adequacy of shipping services;

(iii) Improvement of port operations and connected facilities;

(iv) Establishment or expansion of merchant marines in developing countries;

(v) Reviews of current and long-term aspects of maritime transport;

(vi) Other questions.

3. The programme of work of the Committee on Shipping including research work and studies, was adopted as a whole at the first and special sessions of the Committee, while the modifications were unanimously adopted at its second session. The programme of work as a whole has been approved by the Trade and Development Board.

4. Only item I of the programme of work (Establishment of national and regional consultation machinery) has been the object of substantive discussion by the Committee on Shipping. The substance of this discussion is contained in paragraphs 1 to 18 of document TD/B/116. In respect of this item the Committee also unanimously adopted a resolution (TD/B/116, annex I(a)) taking note of the report on this item submitted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and recommending certain measures for the implementation of the guiding lines set forth in that report. It was considered therefore, that this item was ready for consideration at the second Conference.

5. On the remaining subjects of shipping industry in developing countries, including expansion of merchant marines of developing countries and consultation machinery in shipping, it was thought that the work of the UNCTAD secretariat was sufficiently advanced to enable reports to be placed before the second Conference.

6. On the other items of the programme of work, no substantive discussion has taken place, but the Committee has considered progress reports submitted by the secretariat and given guidance for the continuing work of the secretariat.

7. The second session of the Committee on Shipping considered the substance of the shipping items of the draft provisional agenda for the second Conference adopted by the fourth session of the Trade and Development Board. The essential points of the discussion on this question are contained in paragraphs 73 to 90 of document TD/B/116.

8. With regard to these items, the Committee decided (TD/B/116, para.90) to suggest to the Board that in making proposals on the organization of the second Conference, it may wish to take into account the view of the Committee on Shipping that shipping matters be considered by a separate committee of the Conference. The Sessional Committee considered that the committee in question - the nature of which would be determined by the Board - should meet for a continuous but definite and limited period during the Conference.

9. At its second session, the Committee on Shipping adopted two resolutions in addition to that mentioned above (annex I of document TD/B/116). In these resolutions the Committee, inter alia, unanimously invited governments, shippers and shipowners, shipping and commercial interests and conferences to co-operate with the secretariat through the appropriate channels by providing the information required for the implementation of the Committee's programme of work, reaffirmed that the secretariat of UNCTAD was competent to provide substantive support in co-ordination as appropriate with other United Nations bodies to technical assistance activities in maritime transport, and requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider ways of avoiding duplication of activities among the United Nations units dealing with shipping and ports.

10. With regard to the question of the inclusion of item V(f) (/International Legislation on Shipping/) in the provisional agenda of the second session of the Conference, representatives of developing countries expressed their continuing support for the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the second Conference, and were joined in this opinion by the representatives of socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

11. At the request of representatives of developed countries the representative of the Secretary-General confirmed that his estimate of the practical possibilities open to the Secretariat given in paragraph 75 of the report on the second session of the Shipping Committee remained valid, and that the subject did not appear in the work programme of the Committee.

12. The representatives of the developed countries restated their opposition to the inclusion of the item on the agenda.

13. It was agreed that the subject should be remitted to an informal contact group for further discussion.

(To be completed as appropriate).